

equipment to our local emergency response teams, senior centers, and social services agencies.

Perhaps the most critical area of focus for Lions Clubs has been in vision care. In their "crusade against darkness," Lions Clubs have raised enormous sums for research into blindness and eye disease. The Connecticut Lions Eye Research Foundation was chartered in 1956, establishing an eye research clinic under the auspices of Yale University, and later helped establish a second research facility with the University of Connecticut. Thanks to the work at these clinics, thousands of children and adults have benefitted from quality care and research.

Connecticut Lions have also established three District Lions Low Vision Centers to improve the quality of life and independence of those suffering from low vision. I have personally visited one of these centers and listened to healthcare providers and patients discuss how important and valuable these centers are.

For those still struggling with hearing and vision issues, the Connecticut Lions have supported the Connecticut Radio Information System with donations, volunteer readers, and other assistance. Guide and service dogs have been sponsored by Connecticut Lions, helping to restore the independence of the blind and visually impaired in their communities.

Connecticut Lions have also been deeply involved in providing relief from disaster and tragedy. In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Connecticut Lions secured sizeable grants from Lions Clubs International Foundation to purchase and distribute critically needed equipment for our first responders and healthcare workers. When Hurricane Sandy devastated much of the State's shoreline, our Lions Clubs provided meals for first responders and volunteers who worked tirelessly to rescue people and restore services following the storm. Immediately following the Sandy Hook tragedy in December 2012, the Newtown Lions established a community fund to address the short-term and long-term needs of individuals arising from that tragic event. To date, they have raised more than \$11 million for those affected by posttraumatic shock disorder, including many children of Sandy Hook Elementary School. Connecticut Lions recognized the desperate need of Hurricane Katrina victims, donating thousands of dollars and making multiple trips with shipments of vital supplies. Connecticut Lions have collected and provided food year-round, working with meal centers, food banks, and food share programs to distribute directly to our homeless and those in need. Police and first responders in many towns were provided with "Homeless Kits."

In the face of tragedy and immense need, the Connecticut Lions have never forgotten the importance of looking to the future. Connecticut's youth have been a significant part of Lions Club

service programs. Leadership, Experience, Opportunity—LEO—Clubs give our youth an opportunity to serve their communities and develop their leadership skills. The Lions Quest program brings schools, families, and communities together to promote the development of healthy and responsible young people through social and emotional learning, character development, and a commitment to community service. The International Peace Poster Contest has provided an opportunity for children to express their visions of peace through art and creativity. Outstanding students striving to reach higher academic achievement have been provided significant scholarships as rewards for their incredible work.

We are proud of our Connecticut Lions who are, each one, a solid citizen contributing significantly to their community and beyond. They strive for new ways to serve others and to address the needs of their communities. Connecticut Lions are adept at recognizing needs, planning projects, organizing fundraisers, and rolling their sleeves up to get the job done. "Where there is a need, there is a Lion!" For 100 years, our Connecticut Lions have proudly demonstrated their motto: "We Serve"•

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVE LEE

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to Dave Lee, a radio host and Minnesota legend who is retiring after 32 years at WCCO radio on April 30, 2021.

Hailing from Hatton, ND, Dave did not always know he would be a radio personality. He spent his summers in high school throwing hay bales, picking potatoes, and hoeing beets. When a friend recommended he audition for KRAD, a local radio station in East Grand Forks, Dave was just hoping to earn a little extra money for college, but the station saw a spark in him and offered him 9-hour country music shift. From there, he volunteered to help out with sports coverage, and when he graduated college, he stayed at the station. As he puts it, "When you are passionate about something, it never feels like you are going to work."

That is how Dave's voice was introduced to the airwaves, and after years at KRAD in East Grand Forks and KFGO in Fargo, he became a weekend host of News Talk 830 on WCCO. He didn't know at the time, but WCCO would be his home for the next 32 years. Dave went on to join the legendary Roger Erickson as cohost of the morning drive and then took on solo duties when Roger retired in 1997.

For many Minnesotans, Dave's voice was as much a part of their morning as their cup of coffee. Commuters counted on him for traffic updates, students looked to him for snow day announcements, and we all knew we could rely on him for honest news reporting and engaging interviews. Over the course of his career, he interviewed an impres-

sive roster of personalities, from Boston Celtics legend Bill Russell, to baseball pitcher Nolan Ryan, to actress Julie Andrews. He also had countless incredible interviews with elected officials Democrats and Republicans alike.

Some conversations were serious, talking about the policy fight or issue of the day, but sometimes his interviews were just plain fun. I still have great memories of joining him at the WCCO booth at the Minnesota State Fair and "Minnesota Hospital" soap opera spoof skit, where I was given the role of Nurse Helen and Sid Hartman played the infamous "Dr. Kidney Hartman."

For years, we have also been treated to Dave's sports coverage. He did the play-by-play for the Minnesota Gophers for a decade and occasionally filled in as announcer for the Minnesota Twins. He brought his running commentary to the television broadcasts of the Minnesota State High School Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments and covered University of St. Thomas football games on WCCO.

His joyful and informative commentary made him a six-time winner of Minnesota's Sportscaster of the Year, and he earned three Emmy Awards for his reporting on television. He is also a recipient of the Edward R. Murrow Award, several awards from the Associated Press, and a nomination for the National Association of Broadcasters' Marconi Radio Award.

To so many Minnesotans, Dave was a titan of Minnesota radio, providing information and entertainment with his signature warm demeanor. And it was with that same kind spirit that Dave did so much to give back, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital. After all Dave has done for our community, I have to admit, he deserves the chance to start sleeping in.

Dave, even though I will miss having you on the airwaves, I know that this is not goodbye, and I wish you all my best.●

#### TRIBUTE TO VICTORIA CECHE

• Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I rise today to extend my sincere appreciation to Victoria Cech, who is planning on retiring from her position as the executive director of the Montana Health Research and Education Foundation. The citizens of my State are truly grateful for her tireless efforts to improve the health of all Montanans.

During her tenure at the foundation, Victoria was responsible for managing our State's hospital flexibility and frontier community health improvement programs, both of which provide vital support to our State's critical access hospitals. Why is this important? Because Montana has the distinction of not losing a single critical access hospital since the program's inception. It is the work of the foundation and Victoria's tireless leadership that has contributed to this great success.